

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
Greater Outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse**

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|---|----------------------|
| <b>Program:</b> RCPP-EQIP 2014                                | <b>Ranking Date:</b> |
| <b>Ranking Tool:</b> Greater Outcomes for Greater Sage-Grouse |                      |
| <b>Final Ranking Score:</b>                                   |                      |
| <b>Planner:</b>   |                      |
| <b>Farm Location:</b>   |                      |

**National Priorities Addressed**

| Issue Questions   | Responses    |
|---|--------------|
| If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category. |              |
| 1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.   | 250 Point(s) |
| <b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>  |              |
| 2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?  | 15 Point(s)  |
| 2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?   | 10 Point(s)  |
| 2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| 2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| 2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| <b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>  |              |
| 3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.  | 15 Point(s)  |
| 3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| 3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?   | 10 Point(s)  |
| 3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| <b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>  |              |
| 4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| 4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?   | 10 Point(s)  |
| 4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?   | 10 Point(s)  |
| 4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| <b>Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>  |              |
| 5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?  | 10 Point(s)  |
| 5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?   | 10 Point(s)  |

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| <b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>   |             |
| 6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.   | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program? | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?   | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?   | 10 Point(s) |
| <b>Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)</b>                        |             |
| 7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?                               | 10 Point(s) |
| 7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?   | 10 Point(s) |
| <b>Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)</b>  |             |
| 8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?   | 10 Point(s) |
| 8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?  | 10 Point(s) |
| <b>Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:</b>   |             |
| 9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?               | 10 Point(s) |

#### State Issues Addressed

| <b>Issue Questions</b>  | <b>Responses</b> |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Habitat Priority (Max Points = 200 Points) Answer only one of questions 1 - 4</b>  |                  |
| 1. Is the application primarily located in an area identified by the State as a Priority 1? Colorado: refer to the CO SGI 2.0 Investment Strategy (FOTG, Section II); priority 1 is the "Priority Areas" to address a state-priority threat (example: Prior Areas for Conifer Removal). | 200 Point(s)     |
| 2. Is the application located primarily in an area identified by the State as a Priority 2? Colorado: refer to the CO SGI 2.0 Investment Strategy (FOTG, Section II); priority 2 is the "Priority Areas for Conservation" (PACs).   | 100 Point(s)     |
| 3. Is the application located primarily in an area identified by the State as a Priority 3? Colorado: refer to the CO SGI 2.0 Investment Strategy (FOTG, Section II); priority 3 is the species' "Overall Range".   | 50 Point(s)      |
| 4. Is the application not located primarily in an area identified by the State as a Priority 1 - 3?   | 0 Point(s)       |
| <b>Enrolled Acreage (Max Points = 100 Points) Answer only one of questions 1 - 3</b>  |                  |
| 1. Will the planned practices treat 100% of the eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled?  | 100 Point(s)     |
| 2. Will the planned practices treat 50% or more of the eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled?   | 50 Point(s)      |
| 3. Will the planned practices treat less than 50% of the eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled?   | 25 Point(s)      |
| <b>Identified Threats - refers to the number of identified threats being treated (see local questions) . (Max Points = 100 Points) Answer only one of questions 1 - 4</b>   |                  |
| 1. Will the planned practices address 100% of the threats identified within the vicinity of the project?  | 100 Point(s)     |
| 2. Will the planned practices address 75% of the threats identified within the vicinity of the project?   | 75 Point(s)      |
| 3. Will the planned practices address 50% of the threats identified within the vicinity of the project?   | 50 Point(s)      |
| 4. Will the planned practices address less than 50% (and a minimum of one) of the identified threats?   | 25 Point(s)      |

**Local Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions  | Responses   |
|--|-------------|
| Identified Threats Treated - At least one threat must be identified (Max Points = 250 Points)  |             |
| 1. Will the planned project remove invading pinyon/juniper trees that are having negative impacts on sage-grouse in the project area?                    | 50 Point(s) |
| 2. Will the proposed project restore previously converted (pasture, hay, cropland etc.) sagebrush habitat back to sagebrush habitat.                     | 50 Point(s) |
| 3. Will the project include establishing or promoting favorable, native sage-grouse forbs (cover and diversity) on greater than 5% of the offered acres? | 40 Point(s) |
| 4. Is the majority (greater than 50%) of the land that will be treated, privately owned land?  | 40 Point(s) |
| 5. Will the proposed conservation treatment allow for sustainable range conditions to persist?   | 20 Point(s) |
| 6. Will the proposed conservation treatment address noxious and/or invasive weeds, including cheatgrass (control or eradication)?                        | 20 Point(s) |
| 7. Will the proposed conservation treatment improve restoration of the natural hydrology to wet meadow/riparian systems?                                 | 30 Point(s) |

**Ranking Score**

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| <p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p> |
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